GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2153
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
FUNCTIONING OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephone booths functioning as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether it's a fact that these booths remain out of order;

(c) whether public telephone booths have been closed down during the last 3 years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring smooth and satisfactory functioning of public telephone booths at the railway stations/other public places?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Number of PCOs functioning State-wise by BSNL and MTNL as on 28.2.2005 is 21,06,150. Details are given in the Annexure.

(b) No, Sir. The Public Telephone Booths are generally working satisfactorily. However, at times some booths become faulty on account of reasons beyond control such as damage to under ground cables due to digging of roads by other agencies, heavy rains and natural calamities etc.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The details of PCOs closed during last three years are 269372 are given in the Annexure. The reasons of closure are:

(i) Franchisee getting employment who was earlier unemployed.

(ii) Franchisee shifting to some other city.

(iii) Franchisee switching over to some other business.

(iv) Churning to other private operators.

(v) Death of franchisee.

(vi) Closure due to non-payment.

(vii) Decline in collection owing to revision in pulse rate.

(e) Steps taken for smooth and satisfactory functioning of Public Telephone Booths at Railway Stations/other public places are:

(i) Fault booking centralized at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centers) level.

(ii) Daily testing of PCOs.

(iii) Physical inspections by staff/officers

(iv) Priority in repair of faulty PCOs.

(v) Creation of pole less network to reduce drop wire faults. Contdâ€¦2/- - 2 -
ANNEXURE

NUMBER OF LOCAL AND STD/ISD PCOs FUNCTIONING AS ON 28.2.2005

Sl. No.	Name of State/union Territory	No. of PCOs	No. of PCOs closed during last three years
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1008	7
2	Andhra Pradesh	220387	35658
3	Assam	22610	2078
4	Bihar	55359	5249
5	Chhatisgarh	8128	2112
6	Delhi	102800	20597
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	593	137
8	Daman & Diu	975	122
9	Gujarat	140200	19787
10	Haryana	35720	7341
11	Himachal Pradesh	9790	515
12	Jammu & Kashmir	15275	922
13	Jharkhand	15906	847
14	Karnataka	225925	17248
15	Kerala	310	8371
16	Lakshadeep	72	0
17	Madhya Pradesh	52123	10685
18	Maharashtra including Mumbai MTNL	437740	37268
19	Goa	11886	1340
20	Meghalaya	1895	203
21	Mizoram	649	0
22	Tripura	2355	220
23	Nagaland	1547	620
24	Manipur	1834	233
25	Arunachal Pradesh	1534	149
26	Orissa	31503	2634
27	Punjab including Chandigarh UT	44188	12872
28	Rajasthan	65149	9267
29	Tamil Nadu	238251	37215
30	Pundicherry	2855	337
31	Uttar Pradesh	146622	15435
32	Uttaranchal	12736	576
33	West Bengal	107484	20921
34	Sikkim	741	38
TOTAL		2106150	269372